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THE HIGH SCHOOL JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Would you say that the salary of the average teacher is a *minimum essential*?

Shall the State's educational policies be determined in the interest of the State's dollars or the State's children?

Are you planning to give your school's war record and its after-the-war program as a part of your commencement exercises?

Shall our school laws be framed primarily to protect the State's financial interests or to develop the State's human resources?

Under the provisions of the Bryant educational bills, the public high schools of North Carolina will enter upon a new and greater era of progress and development.

Look at the date on the envelope in which you find this number of the JOURNAL. It shows the month to which your subscription is paid. Why not renew while renewing's good?

Did you forget to send \$1.00 to E. E. Sams, Secretary of the N. C. Teachers' Assembly, Raleigh, to cover membership dues for 1918? Better do it at once, or your name will not be "written there."

When the Bryant school bills are enacted into law, think twice, and then again, before proposing to lower your special tax rate. You will need every cent of it if your schools are to keep up in the procession of progressive schools!

Every accredited high school in the South, that has not already done so, will be required to provide a good working library of at least 500 volumes. Better check up now to see if your school is short in this particular.

Hey, there! Are you in danger, Mr. Superintendent, of making a *fetish* of uniformity? Uniformity has its place, of course, in school practice, and it also has its *stopping* place. Use it to increase your *voltage*, and *not* to reduce your *amperage*!

Here is one of Commissioner Claxton's recent proposals: To double the salaries of public school teachers all over the United States within the next five years, and then to add fifty per cent more within the next ten years. Come to think about it, it would not take so all-fired much to do it!

More and more are progressive states today coming to believe in this plan of providing revenue for all public elementary and secondary schools: the state, $\frac{1}{3}$; the county, $\frac{1}{3}$; the local district, $\frac{1}{3}$, for a term of nine months. A simple, rational, and effective plan, it would seem.

Is your teacher of history keeping up with the proceedings of the Peace Conference? If not, give her a week's vacation and get one of your best high school seniors to teach her classes. Dispense with the history text-books for a few days and use instead the proposed Constitution of the League of Nations.

Try this experiment at commencement this year: Dispense with the usual "literary address," and in its stead have the boys of your community who have returned from "over there" do the speaking. Ask them to give simple, unadorned, straight-forward narratives right out of their actual experiences. Bet you'll have a big commencement if you try it.

Several articles we had planned to include in this issue were crowded out; among them are: "Minutes of the Nashville Meeting of the Commission on Accredited Schools," "Book Notes and Reviews," an appreciation of the late Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle, "Poems of Patriotism and the Lessons They Teach." These will appear in our April number.

Good chance now, when your declamation contests come off, to give "Spartacus," "Benedict Arnold," "Mother, Home and Heaven" (and incidentally your judges), a season of rest. Ditto with reference to "Curfew" *et al* in your recitation contests. Try some-

thing from President Wilson, Secretary Lane, Lloyd George, Viviani, Private Peat, Pat MacGill, Ian Hay, and Philip Gibbs. Thank you. Next!

Do your high school pupils have easy access to a modern encyclopædia? The library that hasn't one is simply out-of-date. There is none better than the *New International*. We are using it every day in the office of the JOURNAL and find it to be a constant delight. It doesn't fail us when we need its assistance. There's an easy way to make it yours. Look up the advertisement in this number of the JOURNAL and write for particulars.

Of the 600,000 public school teachers in the United States, 300,000 are not more than 25 years of age, and 150,000 are not more than 21. Not over 50 per cent of those who take up teaching remain in the service of the schools for longer than four or five years. Whoever devises and puts into practical operation a plan that will eliminate the "short circuit" in the teaching profession will be a benefactor to generations yet unborn.

Have you proposed to erect at your school a "memorial" in honor of the boys who offered their lives in the cause of human freedom? Propose a memorial building, or dormitory, or library, or laboratory, or museum, or something else that is worthy and worth while. In one country district in North Carolina there are three fathers, each of whom lost a son in France, who want to give a considerable part of the "soldiers' insurance" the boys carried to erect a memorial in connection with the local school!

Men are no longer interested in *leaders* who advocate *little* ways of doing *big* jobs. They know that fortress walls are not demolished with pop-guns in the hands of children, and that mountains are not leveled with pick-axes in the hands of dwarfs. Unless you make your program of educational development *big* enough to appeal to the *imagination* of folks, they'll reject it. But stir their imagination with a *big plan* for doing a *big job*, and they'll accept it and put it through even though it may require the expenditure of a few thousands or a few millions to do it.

If we would preserve our civilization, and build a new and better world, we must provide at once for both these forms of education. The citizen of the future should be a cultured vocationalist.—R. M. OGDEN in *School and Society*.

Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle

(1831-1919)

Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle, former president of the University of North Carolina, professor emeritus since he retired as head of the department of history in 1907, historian, statesman, cultured Christian gentleman, died peacefully at his home in Chapel Hill on February 4. He was one of the University's most honored sons and one of the State's most distinguished citizens. No alumnus of any institution ever served his *alma mater* with greater devotion or championed her cause with stronger faith. Dr. Battle was the connecting tie between the old order and the new in the life of the institution. For many, many years his venerable presence has been an inspiration to the thousands of young men who came here to study. The memory of his heroic services in other days, and of the sweet, youthful spirit of his declining years, will long be treasured in Chapel Hill as a priceless heritage. An appreciation of Dr. Battle, by Professor Collier Cobb, will appear in our April number.—N. W. W.

The North Carolina Year Book 1917-1918

It has become a habit with the people of North Carolina at about this time of year to begin looking for the North Carolina Year Book. The volume for 1917-'18 is now available.

During the year the North Carolina Club at the University has been making a study of county government and county affairs in North Carolina. The club has been successful in searching out important data on this topic. In addition to this the club has been successful in so arranging the data as to make the information interesting and usable.

The importance of county problems to our civic welfare in our rural life cannot be overestimated. School teachers, and particularly high school teachers, may well use this book as both a text and a reference book in civics teaching. No more excellent way could be devised for developing a live civic consciousness than to have a class studying the problems of county government, county roads, schools, taxation, health and general welfare.

The book may be secured free of cost upon application to the School of Education or to the Bureau of Extension.—L. A. W.

The University of North Carolina Summer School, 32nd session—June 24-August 8, 1919.